

Application No. 09/849,437
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated February 19, 2004
April 19, 2004

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 4 and 7-8 have been cancelled and claims 2, 5 and 9 have been amended. Currently, claims 2-3, 5-6, and 9-12 are pending in the application.

The indication that claims 11 and 12 are allowed is noted with appreciation. Also, the indication that claims 2-3, 5-6 and 9-10 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner stated that claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rollier (U.S. Patent No. 5,667,432). This rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks below.

By this amendment, claims 1, 4 and 7-8 have been canceled and claims 2, 5 and 9 which were indicated to contain allowable subject matter have been rewritten into independent form including the limitations of canceled independent and dependent claims 1, 4 and 7-8, respectively. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the amended claims are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

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If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

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